

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2528

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XF, UNSC

SUBJ: SC DEBATE ON ME: SYG VISIT TO AREA

SUMMARY: SYG CONSIDERING MAKING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK THAT HE INTENDS TO VISIT ME. HOPE IS THAT SC PRES MAY THEN BE ABLE TO OBTAIN SC AGREEMENT TO EITHER SC PRES STATEMENT OR CONSENSUS WHICH WOULD WELCOME VISIT AND DEFER SC DEBATE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 10 AMB BENNETT AND MISOFF NAAS CALLED ON ISRAELI PERMREP TEKOAH AND, LATER IN AFTERNOON, ON SYG. (TEKOAH HAD MET WITH SYG EARLIER IN DAY.) CONVERSATION WITH BOTH CENTERED UPON POSSIBLE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SYG THIS WEEK OF HIS INTENT TO VISIT AREA.

2. TEKOAH TOLD US HE HAD RECALLED TO SYG THAT ISRAEL HAD AGREED TO HIS VISIT "IN PRINCIPLE," BUT THE FINAL ANSWER WOULD BE EXTENDED ONLY AFTER GOI HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY SC ACTION, IF IN FACT SC DECISION WERE MADE. HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO SYG, HE SAID, THAT KEY STEP WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS COULD BE HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE INTENDED TO VISIT AREA. SYG COULD SAY, TEKOAH SUGGESTED, THAT HE HAD AGREEMENT OF BOTH PARTIES IN PRINCIPLE, HE HAD HELD ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTIES SINCE HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA, AND TIME AND SCHEDULE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT WOULD BE FIXED LATER. SYG WAS AT FIRST HESITANT AND QUESTIONED WHETHER EGYPTIANS WOULD AGREE TO THIS FORMULATION. TEKOAH TOLD SYG THAT IF HE ENTERED NEGOTIATIONS WITH PARTIES ON THESE SIMPLE SENTENCES HE WOULD NEVER GET AGREEMENT. IF SYG

TOOK THIS STEP, TEKOA H TOLD HIM, SC PRESS WOULD THEN BE FREE TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SC AGREEMENT ON SC PRES STATEMENT OR SC CONSENSUS WHICH WOULD REFER TO SYG STATEMENT AND DEFER FURTHER SC DEBATE. ACCORDING TO TEKOA H, SYG FINALLY AGREED THAT HE WOULD FIND APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY JULY 12 OR 13 TO ISSUE SUCH STATEMENT. (HOWEVER, SEE PARA 4 BELOW.)

3. TEKOA H THEN INFORMED US, WITH REQUEST INFO BE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED, HE HAD SUGGESTED TO SYG THAT VISIT TAKE PLACE AFTER AUGUST 18, SINCE EBAN WILL BE IN LATIN AMERICA AUGUST 3 TO 18. ALSO, PARTIES AND SYG HIMSELF WOULD NEED SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR VISIT. SYG HAD AGREED, TEKOA H SAID, TO THIS RECOMMENDATION SINCE POST AUGUST 18 PERIOD WOULD BEST FIT INTO HIS OWN SCHEDULE. TEKOA H REMARKED TO US THAT IN MAKING THIS SUGGESTION HE WAS OF COURSE ALSO MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO GAIN AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE. BY TIME WALDHEIM RETURNED TO NEW YORK FROM ME GA WOULD BE ALMOST UPON US AND THERE WOULD BE LESS CHANCE SYG WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO SUBMIT REPORT TO SC. FOR EXAMPLE, HE COULD LET MEMBERS KNOW THAT HE INTENDED UNDERTAKE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH RESPECTIVE FONMINS WHEN THEY WERE IN NEW YORK FOR GENERAL DEBATE.

4. IN OUR LATER MEETING, SYG CONFIRMED THAT TEKOA H HAD PUSHED HARD FOR STATEMENT THIS WEEK, THUS PERMITTING SC PRES TO WORK FOR POSTPONEMENT OF SC DEBATE. SYG INDICATED THAT HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO IDEA AND LEANING IN THAT DIRECTION BUT HAD NOT FIRMLY DECIDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE OF ACTION. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD TALK AGAIN WITH EGYPTIANS TO GAIN THEIR APPROVAL AND, IN RESPONSE TO BENNETT'S QUERY HOW US COULD BE MOST HELPFUL, SUGGESTED US COULD DISCREETLY SUPPORT IDEA IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS.

5. SYG TOLD US THAT IMMEDIATELY ON HIS RETURN HERE FROM GENEVA HE HAD MET WITH EGYPTIAN PERM REP MEGUID AND HAD INFORMED HIM OF HIS UNHAPPINESS OVER FURTHER DELAY IN SC MEETINGS. SINCE SC DEBATE WAS FORMALLY BASED ON HIS REPORT TO SC, HE WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESENT FOR DEBATE BUT THIS WOULD FORCE HIM TO POSTPONE AT LEAST CONFIDENTIAL

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PART OF HIS LONG-SCHEDULED EASTERN EUROPEAN TOUR WHICH WOULD GREATLY DESPLEASE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. SYG SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED TO MEGUID THAT EGYPTIANS MIGHT, THEREFORE, WISH TO REQUEST FURTHER DEFERMENT. MEGUID REPLIED THAT UPCOMING SC DEBATE WAS IMPORTANT AND DECISIVE FOR EGYPT BUT HE WOULD REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. SYG HAD ALSO MENTIONED TO MEGUID THAT, IF EHGP T DECIDED SC MEETING WAS ESSENTIAL, PERHAPS MEETING COULD BE BRIEF, TAKE NOTE OF HIS VISIT, AND DEFER FURTHER DISCUSSION. SYG COMMENTED TO US THAT HE HAS STRONG IMPRESSION EGYPT WANTS TO CONCLUDE SC DELIBERATIONS IN JULY WHILE BRITISH ARE IN CHAIR.

6. EGYPTIANS HAVE, SYG SAID, ACCEPTED HIS VISIT IN PRINCIPLE BUT ARE NOW SUSPICIOUS THAT ISRAEL WANTS TO USE VISIT TO KILL FURTHER

SC DEBATE. SYG SMILED AND COMMENTED THAT THESE SUSPICIONS OF COURSE ARE ACCURATE, BUT TEKOAH'S IDEAS WERE VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH HIS OWN THINKING. BENNETT INTERJECTED THAT ISRAELIS AT FIRST WERE HESITANT TO ACCEPT VISIT BUT HAD COME ALONG NICELY. PERHAPS SYG COULD POINT OUT TO EGYPTIANS THAT, IF OUR UNDERSTANDING WAS CORRECT, ISRAEL HAD AGREED TO A PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN INITIATED BY EGYPTIANS. BENNETT ADDED THAT US WARMLY SUPPORTS SYG VISIT AND BELIEVES SC DEBATE CONNOT ACHIEVE ANYTHING USEFUL.

7. SYG SAID HE HAD REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD NOT ACHIEVE MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN CONSULTATIONS IN AREA, BUT HIS VISIT COULD HELP OVERALL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND PERHAPS HELP EGYPT OUT OF ITS DILEMMA. EGYPT NEEDED SOMETHING BUT CLEARLY COULD NOT EXPECT FAVORABLE SC DECISION. THEREFORE, EGYPT COULD HAIL HIS VISIT AS EVIDENCE OF NEW UN ACTIVITY BROUGHT ABOUT BY ITS OWN INITIATIVE. AT SAME TIME, ISRAEL WOULD ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING DEBATE AND FURTHER DETERIORATION OF POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN AREA WHICH TOUGH DEBATE MIGHT CAUSE. HE REPEATED THAT HE FULLY REALIZED SC CANNOT RESOLVE ME SITUATION AND REFERRED TO HIS GENEVA STATEMENT (USUN 2502). QUIET DIPLOMATIC PROCESS, HE SAID, OFFERED ONLY REAL HOPE AND HE WAS PREPARED TO HELP IN WHATEVER WAY POSSIBLE TO GET SUCH PROCESS UNDERWAY. HE ASSUMED US HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS VIEW.

8. BENNETT AGAIN ASSURED SYG OF US SUPPORT, BUT REMARKED THAT, IF SC DEBATE TOOK PLACE, SYG'S INITIATIVE COULD IN FACT BE DAMAGED. IF TOUGH RESOLUTION(S) WERE DIRCULATED, ATMOSPHERE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE CLOUDED, ZAYYAT MIGHT FIND IT DIFFICULT AT THAT TIME TO RETREAT TO SIMPLE CONSENSUS WELCOMING SYG VISIT, AND WE "COULD LOSE" ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE OF VISIT IN PROCESS. BENNETT ADDED THAT US WILL VOTE AGAINST ANY RES WHICH UPSETS BALANCE OF RES 242. THEREFORE, HE SAID, SCENARIO OF SYG ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK, FOLLOWED BY SC PRES EFFORT OBTAIN AGREEMENT TO DEFER SC DEBATE, HAD MERIT. EGYPTIANS AS USUAL WERE CONFUSED AND SENDING OUT CONFLICTING SIGNALS AND SYG VISIT SHOULD IN FACT MEET THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS. SYG REPLIED THAT THIS SCENARIO WOULD BE OPTIMUM SOLUTION AND HE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. BENNETT

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